

guided by the general standards and consider the existing situation of a local community or

ad data, citation and similar papers at core.ac.uk

services. Having discussed all terms, the municipality may sign the contract with other

brought to yo

gent: it is necessary to establish definite requirements to be observed by municipalities buying services from various non-governmental service providers. Before signing a contract for service rendering it is necessary to discuss and make clear what services are required from service providers. It is only then that the municipality may prepare its requirements for the supply and quality of purchased

means a long-term process. It must be participated by all interested parties, such as the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, districts, municipalities, NGOs and private service providers. **Service receivers** are to be involved in the process of standards' preparation and introduction by all means. The client knows his or her mind!

Workshop 2. *SOLIDARITY IN SOCIAL WORK*

(Moderators: A. ep nait and R. Laiconien)

Social cohesion: A need of modern community in the creation of social Europe

Angel ep nait
(Vilnius Municipality)

A social work system consists of values, theory and experience. All these components prosper in a certain cultural soil nourished by national traditions. However it is social work subjects who give it its power to live. They represent another system consisting of state and municipal institutions, and NGOs. National traditions determine the contents of this model. We know a Soviet model from our recent past. It was dominated by a centralised state institutions' system isolating a person from community. There are countries where municipal or NGO services prevail.

What model are we to choose in Lithuania if we wish to introduce an effective service system not only based on humanitarian values of solidarity, justice and freedom but also able to satisfy the contemporary requirements of globalisation and human development?

As is indicated by the modern development of social work, social work system is a system of community-based social services. Within it, service-providing subjects function. Social cohesion is one of their distinctive characteristics.

Social work practice proves that the cohesion of social subjects is a panacea for the improve-

ment of social situation in the world. It is helpful in coping with a multitude of social problems, such as poverty reduction, and provision of effective and high-quality social services. Social cohesion helps to secure each person's rights provided by the Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention of Human Rights and other declarations. It is possible to state that effective social services are the services enacted by means of social cohesion.

By encouraging social cohesion we create the Europe fit for the community to live in as in this way the implementation of fundamental human rights will be secured.

The partners of social cohesion may contribute substantially to the growth of well-being by the introduction of decentralised management and joint responsibility of management institution on the central, regional and local level with the application of subsidiary principle.

Social justice, the need to raise economic effectiveness and the quality of life demands that as many as possible partners – politicians, government and NGO representatives, and experts – join this process. Social cohesion is the basic

democracy- securing condition. Disintegrated society cannot secure stability.

In 1997 leaders of European Council member states at the 2nd Summit Meeting summarised that social cohesion was one of the basic needs of the expanded Europe as well as a means of development of human rights and dignity.

A Social Cohesion Committee was created. The European Council is further looking for the ways how to consolidate forces in order to create social solidarity or to strengthen the sense of dependence. The strategy of European Council is aimed at the creation of a more integrated society with reduced social isolation and risk. Special attention is to be given to the needs of poor people and risk groups. Here are the main objectives in this area:

- how to avoid the emergence of society where the majority of people is rich while the minority is on the verge of poverty;
- how to reduce poverty and overcome social isolation;
- how to cut down poverty;

- how to improve public service and secure their general accessibility;
- how to guarantee high level of social security;
- how to create a new sense of solidarity and responsibility;
- how to react to the change of life patterns and their influence on children.

Cohesion is an instrument of seeking solidarity.

One must be ready for cohesion, that is one must make preparations for the participation in community affairs and social events. Cohesion is the purpose to be sought by means of NGOs. The chances they offer are very individual in terms of original range of services, quality and compatibility with the needs of community. The planning of services starts in the community. In this way the participation of community in decision making is put into practice.

Steps taken by concrete municipalities created after the model of 16th c. communities, consolidates community.

Cohesion, humanitarian (Christian) values, and quality – these are to be the needs of a user as a citizen, consumer and community member.

Workshop 3. *THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAM APPROACH IN SOCIAL WORK*

(Moderator: V. Vaicekauskien)

The importance of team work in social work

Violeta Vaicekauskien
(Vilnius Child Care Home)

The specific character of social worker's professional activity demands the use and combination of individual and group work techniques. In both cases the success and the result of social work depends on social worker's ability to understand interpersonal relations, to evaluate environmental pressures, and to organise corresponding actions. Thus social worker has to know how to consolidate people into groups. He or she is to be aware of how a group turns into a team, to understand how advantageous interpersonal relations are created, and how social needs are satisfied.

Twenty-five professional social workers gath-

ered to form a work group titled "The importance of team work in social work". They mainly represented employees of municipal social support divisions and social workers and heads of social institutions (day care and employment centres, boarding houses and care homes). According to the specific character of his or her work, each member attached himself or herself to one of the following group-team types (according to D.W.Johnson):

1. Problem-solving team consisting of representatives of various divisions of one organisation. Each member interacts directly